



Multnomah County Sheriff's Office

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Exemplary service for a safe, livable community

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January 4, 2019

Multnomah County Circuit Court
The Honorable Stephen K. Bushong
1021 SW 4th Avenue, Office 206/204
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Presiding Judge Bushong,

Thank you for communicating with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) regarding the operations of County correctional facilities. We appreciate your support as we face new jail capacity realities moving into the New Year.

In accordance with the FY 2019 Adopted Budget, MCSO's authorized jail capacity is set at 1192 beds. Yet the demands and the complexities of the criminal justice system are stressing our facilities, our staff and the adults entrusted to our custody. Absent adequate capacity, our Agency has been giving notice to our intergovernmental partners and managing forced releases in accordance with the County's Emergency Population Release Plan.

Our partners, including the Courts, are adjusting their workloads accordingly. One alternative for the Courts has been our Close Street Supervision Program. The purpose of this program is to support offender accountability, while supervising pretrial defendants in the community. We take pride in the fact that Close Street has been an effective component of defendant participation in judicial procedure.

However, Close Street encompasses 6 corrections members, authorized to manage a case load of 125. Over the past few months, we believe due to jail capacity, Close Street's caseload has rapidly increased. Our members made adjustments in real time by practicing a tiered approach to supervision. Yet most recently, caseloads have skyrocketed to over 300 cases, with no change in personnel or other resources. Under these circumstances, this program cannot be effective.

MCSO believes it has a responsibility to communicate this new reality and set expectations moving forward. Until resources increase or caseloads reduce, new individuals ordered to Close Street will be under minimal supervision. Stated another way, irrespective of our collective intentions for the community and defendants alike, individuals ordered to Close Street will receive limited office-based supervision. The Criminal Court will see differences in court reporting and their interactions with Close Street members in the near future. Please share this message among the Bench and Court staff as you see fit.

This work is important to MCSO and your partnership is critical to our success. MCSO will continue to keep you updated about this matter. As additional questions or concerns reach you, please contact Nicole Morrissey-